



NEWARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TO: Federal Communications Commission
FROM: Robert N. Fogel, Jr.
DATE: September 5, 2008
RE: CC Docket No. 02-06

The Newark Central School District hereby lends its strong support to the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries ("E-Rate") program.

It is well settled that improving communications between and among educators, students and parents can play a vital role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. Telephone broadcast messaging offers significant advantages and benefits over the less efficient means which schools traditionally used to reach out to students and parents, such as hand-delivered written notices and phone tree messages.

Telephone broadcast messaging is used in this District as a means of contacting parents regarding absent or truant students, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. We have also used this means of communicating with our families to notify and inform parents of testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences and to otherwise increase participation by parents in their children's education.

Our telephone broadcast messaging system has provided us with an important emergency response resource for weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, as well as for incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations.

In enacting the E-Rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-Rate program's list of eligible services.

Quite simply, this technology works wonderfully and has become a vital part of our every day communications efforts. Please consider very closely making it eligible for the E-Rate funding program.

RNF/ch